

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

[33] The axle beam attachment system 30 attaches the leaf spring 22 to the axle beam 14 through U-bolts 32 which sandwich the leaf spring between an upper clamp plate 34 and a lower clamp plate 36. The U-bolts 32 pass over the clamp plates 34, 36 around the axle beam 14 and are retained below the axle beam 14 with a fastener plate 37 and fasteners 38. The fastener plate 3637 preferably straddles the open end of the U-bolts 32 to retain the axle beam 14. The axle beam attachment system 30 location in combination with the leaf spring shape defines the characteristics of the suspension system.